

2009 Science Assessment Content

Guided by a new framework, the NAEP science assessment was updated in 2009 to keep the content current with key developments in science, curriculum standards, assessments, and research. The 2009 framework organizes science content into three broad content areas.

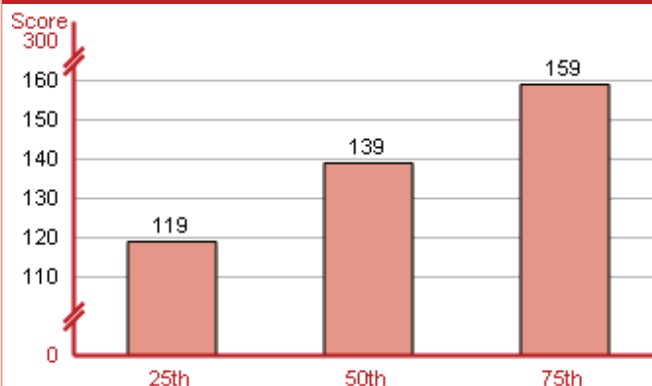
Physical science includes concepts related to properties and changes of matter, forms of energy, energy transfer and conservation, position and motion of objects, and forces affecting motion.

Life science includes concepts related to organization and development, matter and energy transformations, interdependence, heredity and reproduction, and evolution and diversity.

Earth and space sciences includes concepts related to objects in the universe, the history of the Earth, properties of Earth materials, tectonics, energy in Earth systems, climate and weather, and biogeochemical cycles.

The 2009 science assessment was composed of 143 questions at grade 4, 162 at grade 8, and 179 at grade 12. Students responded to only a portion of the questions, which included both multiple-choice questions and questions that required a written response.

Scores at Selected Percentiles

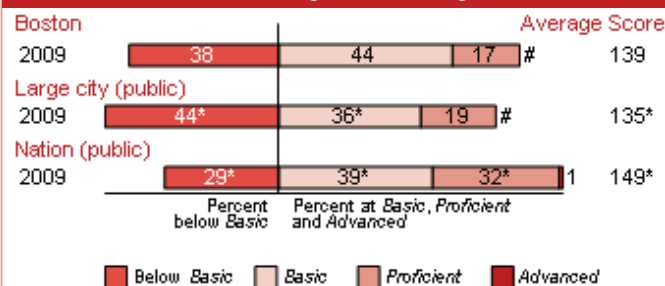


NOTE: Scores at selected percentiles on the NAEP science scale indicate how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels performed.

Overall Results

- In 2009, the average score of fourth-grade students in Boston was 139. This was higher than the average score of 135 for public school students in large cities.
- The percentage of students in Boston who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 18 percent in 2009. This percentage was not significantly different from large cities (20 percent).
- The percentage of students in Boston who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 62 percent in 2009. This percentage was greater than large cities (56 percent).

Achievement-Level Percentages and Average Score Results



* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from Boston. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.
Rounds to zero.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Large city (public) includes public schools located in the urbanized areas of cities with populations of 250,000 or more.

Results for Student Groups in 2009

Reporting Groups	Percent of students Avg. score		Percentages at or above		Percent at Advanced
			Basic	Proficient	
Gender					
Male	52	137	59	17	#
Female	48	141	65	18	#
Race/Ethnicity					
White	15	161	85	43	1
Black	40	133	54	10	#
Hispanic	37	134	58	12	#
Asian/Pacific Islander	7	154	80	34	#
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡
National School Lunch Program					
Eligible	79	134	57	12	#
Not eligible	21	156	79	37	#

Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding, and because the "Information not available" category for the National School Lunch Program, which provides free/reduced-price lunches, and the "Unclassified" category for race/ethnicity are not displayed.

Score Gaps for Student Groups

- In 2009, female students in Boston had an average score that was not significantly different from male students.
- In 2009, Black students had an average score that was 28 points lower than White students. This performance gap was narrower than large cities (40 points).
- In 2009, Hispanic students had an average score that was 26 points lower than White students. This performance gap was narrower than large cities (36 points).
- In 2009, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of low family income, had an average score that was 21 points lower than students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch. This performance gap was narrower than large cities (30 points).

NOTE: Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 Science Assessment.